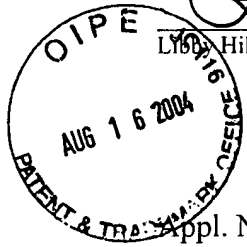


**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on August 13, 2004 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Ref. No.: 12439-0045  
P109-US

*Libby Hill*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Libby Hill



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/781,833 Confirmation No. 8560  
Applicant : Eldridge et al.  
Filed : February 12, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 1765  
Examiner : A. Alanko  
  
Docket No. : 276440-6

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). Applicants believe that citation number 8 is a foreign counterpart to citation number 3. Applicants ask that the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

**COMMONLY OWNED, RELATED PATENTS AND APPLICATIONS**

**Applicants note that citation numbers 1-7 in the attached listing are commonly owned with the above-identified patent application and may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the above-identified patent application.** The Examiner's attention is therefore directed to the prosecution history of the foregoing related patent(s) and patent application(s) and prior art cited in these patent(s) and patent application(s); Applicants assume that the Examiner has access to all of the prosecution history, including the cited prior art, of these patents(s) and patent application(s), but Applicants will provide copies of all or any part of the prosecution history of or prior art from any of these patent(s) or patent application(s) upon request.

☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))  
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage  
-- OR --
- ☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits  
-- OR --
- ☒ (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:

- ☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**
- ☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

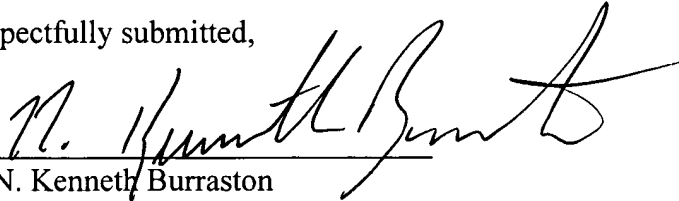
- A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**
- B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

*Fee:*

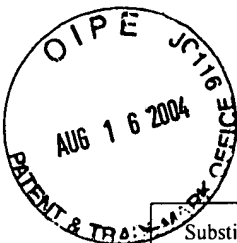
- ☒ No fee is due.  
☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 13, 2004

By   
N. Kenneth Burraston  
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

# **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

## *Complete If Known*

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	09/781,833
				Filing Date	February 12, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Eldridge et al.
				Group Art Unit	1765
				Examiner Name	A. Alanko
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	276440-4

## **U.S. PUBLISHED PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication/Issue Date
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>		
	1	2002/0055282	A1	Eldridge et al.	5/9/2002
	2	2003/0099737	A1	Eldridge et al.	5/29/2003
	3	5994152		Khandros et al.	11/30/1999
	4	6713374		Eldridge et al.	3/3/2004

## **U.S. UNPUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATIONS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Serial No.	Name of Applicant	Filing Date
	5	09/364,788	Eldridge et al.	7/30/1999
	6	09/364,855	Eldridge et al.	7/30/1999
	7	09/710,539	Eldridge et al.	11/9/2000

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>			
	8	TW	341747		FormFactor	10/1/1998	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.